

# LeAnn Rimes plans free concerts on U.S. bases

BY RICK EMERT

*Stars and Stripes*

Country music sensation LeAnn Rimes will perform a free concert at 8 p.m. on Friday, at the Vilseck Army Airfield, Germany.

The concert is Rimes' second stop on a mini-tour of U.S. military bases in Germany. She performs at Ramstein Air Base at 7 p.m. on Thursday in commemoration of the U.S. Air Force's 57th birthday.

"She agreed to do a second concert for us [Army] a couple months ago and we got in gear to set up a venue for it," said Freddie Giddens, acting director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation for the 100th Area Support Group.

Giddens said he expects up to 5,000 people to attend the concert Friday night, but that the venue can hold up to 10,000.

Parking gates open at 3 p.m., and the concert area opens at 5 p.m. with vendors selling alcoholic beverages and soft drinks.

No coolers or bottles are allowed at the concert site.

Shuttle buses will be available to take concertgoers to the post exchanges at Grafenwöhr and Vilseck before the concert begins, Giddens said. The concert is open to all military identification card holders, installation pass holders and their guests.

MWR groups from surrounding communities have arranged free bus transportation to the concert site. Anyone interested in using the bus transportation should contact the local MWR to sign up. Concert seating is limited, so concert organizers recommend people bring lawn chairs or blankets.



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"We want as many people as possible to come out here and have fun," Giddens said. "This is

a great location to have the concert, because people can turn this into a shopping weekend. Czech Republic is right around the corner."

Rimes, 22, has released eight albums in a music career that began when she was 11. The Grammy Award winner's most recent album is 2003's "LeAnn Rimes Greatest Hits (To Be Continued)." Rimes' first Christmas album, "What a Wonderful World," hits stores Oct. 12.

For more information on the Vilseck concert, contact Tammy Hite at DSN 476-2762/2629 or Freddie Giddens at civilian 0151-1212-8110.

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